

CLAIM LISTING

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

1. (Currently Amended) A decontamination device for decontaminating medical apparatus, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - an absorbent pad carrying a decontaminating compound placed within said housing; and
 - structure for removably engaging said housing to a portion of said medical apparatus, said engaging preventing relative motion between said medical apparatus and said housing whereby wherein said absorbent pad is placed into contact with said portion of said medical apparatus upon engagement and removed from contact upon disengagement.
2. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said structure for removably engaging said housing to said medical apparatus comprises interlocking structure for engaging a portion of said medical apparatus.
3. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 2, wherein said interlocking structure comprises at least one elastically deformable, inwardly directed protrusion on said housing.
4. (Currently Amended) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises ~~absorbent pad~~ a flexible portion to facilitate the removable engagement to said medical instrumentation.
5. (Previously Presented) The decontamination device of claim 1, further comprising additional means for attaching said housing to said medical apparatus.
6. (Previously Presented) The decontamination device of claim 5, wherein said additional means is a lanyard.

7. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, further comprising a removable cover for said housing.

8. (Previously Presented) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein at least two of said housings are detachably engaged.

9. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises indicia providing information concerning said decontamination device.

10. (Previously Presented) The decontamination device of claim 9, wherein said indicia comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of color, printed material, bar code, and embossed material.

11. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 9, wherein said indicia comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of the decontaminating compound and the medical apparatus for which the decontamination device is intended.

12. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound comprises a disinfecting compound and a sterilizing compound.

13. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of glutaraldehydes.

14. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of chlorine compounds.

15. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of alcohols.

16. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of iodophors.

17. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of peroxygen compounds.

18. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of phenolics.

19. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said decontaminating compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium compounds.

20. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said dispenser contains an indicator compound for indicating that the medical apparatus has been contacted by said decontaminating compound.

21. (Original) The decontamination device of claim 1, wherein said housing is dimensioned to receive the head of a stethoscope.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for using medical apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing a decontamination device comprising a housing, a dispenser within said housing for contacting a portion of said medical apparatus with a decontaminating compound when said portion of said medical apparatus is placed within said housing, and structure for removably engaging said housing to said medical apparatus;

placing a portion of said medical apparatus in said housing, thereby contacting said portion with said dispenser and said decontaminating compound;

removing the portion of said medical apparatus from said housing;

using the medical apparatus in furtherance of medical procedures;

~~replacing~~ attaching the portion of the medical apparatus ~~[[in]]~~ to the housing of the decontamination device and engaging the housing to the medical apparatus using said ~~[[,]]~~ engagement structure, said engaging preventing relative motion between said medical apparatus and said housing, whereby said portion of said medical apparatus is again decontaminated; and engaging said decontamination device with said medical apparatus during the decontamination step and the medical use step.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said decontaminating compound is comprised of at least one of a sterilizing compound and a disinfecting compound.

24. (Previously Presented) The decontamination device of claim 4 wherein said housing further comprises an inwardly directed protrusion to which when combined with the flexible portion causes an interlock of the housing with the portion of said medical apparatus.